means for recording said shelf-life limitation information for each of said one or more product items;

means for reading said recorded shelf-life limitation information for each of said one or more product items;

means for electronically recording said shelf-life limitation information for each of said one or more product items in an electronically readable and storable form.

means for communicating said electronically recorded shelf-life limitation information for each of said one or more product items to a microprocessor, the microprocessor being accessible to a purchaser of said one or more product items for managing use of said one or more product items based on the shelf-life limitation information.

3.   (Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising:

means for storing said communicated electronic shelf-life limitation information for each of said one or more product items in a memory accessible by said microprocessor.

4.   The system of claim 3, further comprising:

means for formatting for an on-screen display said stored electronic shelf-life limitation information for each of said one or more product items.

5.   The system of claim 4, further comprising:

means for displaying as an on-screen display said formatted electronic shelf-life limitation information for each of said one or more product items.

6.   (Amended) The system of claim 5, further comprising:

means for the purchaser to interact with said on-screen display of said formatted electronic shelf-life limitation information for each of said one or more product items to identify new product items.

7. The system of claim 6, further comprising:

means for said purchaser to interact with said on-screen display of said formatted electronic shelf-life limitation information for each of said one or more product items to identify deleted product items.

8. The system of claim 7, further comprising:

means for said purchaser to interact with said on-screen display of said formatted electronic shelf-life limitation information for each of said one or more product items to identify opened product items.

9. The system of claim 5 where the means for reading said recorded shelf-life limitation information for each of said one or more product items further comprises;

means for converting said read shelf-life limitation information for each of said one or more product items to an electronically readable and storable form.

34. (NEW) The system of claim 1, wherein the shelf-life limitation information includes a period for which the product remains viable.

35. (NEW) A system for controlling product items with shelf-life limitations comprising:

a data store storing shelf-life limitation information for a product item;

a scanner scanning a product indicia associated with the product item;

a first processor coupled to the scanner, the first processor configured to receive the scanned product indicia and search the data store for the associated shelf-life limitation information, the first

processor further configured to provide the shelf-life limitation information to a purchaser of the product item in an electronically readable format; and

a second processor accessible to the purchaser of the product item, the second processor configured to retrieve the shelf-life limitation information of the product item provided by the first processor for managing use of the product item.

36. (NEW) The system of claim 35, wherein the first processor is configured to store the shelf-life limitation information in an IC card accessible to the purchaser of the product item.

37. (NEW) The system of claim 35, wherein the first processor is configured to store the shelf-life limitation information in a store server accessible to the second processor over a data communications connection.

38. (NEW) The system of claim 35, wherein the shelf-life limitation information includes a period for which the product remains viable.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-9, and 34-38 are currently pending in this application. Claims 10-33 have been withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to nonelected inventions. Applicant has amended claim 1, canceled claim 2, and added new claims 34-38. The amendments find full support in the original specification, claims, and drawings. No new matter has been added. In view of the above amendments and remarks that follow, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 3-9, and 34-38 are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by either Singer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,953,234) or